What is Claimed is

1. A method for treating an HIV infection comprising administering to an infected human a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula 1:

$$Ar^1\text{-}X\text{-}W\text{-}Ar^2 \quad (1)$$

wherein Ar^1 is

(i) 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O or S; said heterocycle optionally substituted with $(C_{1\text{-}4})$alkyl, $(C_{3\text{-}7})$cycloalkyl, $(C_{3\text{-}7})$cycloalkyl-$(C_{1\text{-}3})$alkyl-, wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkylalkyl may be monosubstituted with -OH; and/or phenyl when the heterocycle contains 1 to 3 N-atoms; in either instance, the said heterocycle is optionally substituted with:

phenyl, phenylmethyl, 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, fused phenyl-unsaturated or saturated 5- or 6-membered carbocycle, fused phenyl-{unsaturated or saturated 5- or 6- membered carbocycle)}methyl, or fused phenyl –5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle; each of said phenyl, phenylmethyl, aromatic heterocycle, fused phenyl-carbocycle, fused phenyl-(carbocycle)methyl or fused phenyl-aromatic heterocycle in turn is substituted optionally with 1 to 3 substituents selected independently from:

$(C_{1\text{-}6})$alkyl, $(C_{3\text{-}7})$cycloalkyl, $(C_{3\text{-}7})$cycloalkyl-$(C_{1\text{-}3})$alkyl, $(C_{2\text{-}6})$alkenyl, O-$(C_{1\text{-}4})$alkyl, S-$(C_{1\text{-}4})$alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, phenyl optionally substituted with $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl or nitro, phenylmethyl optionally substituted with $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl or nitro, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-$(C_{1\text{-}4})$alkyl, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)OR^1$, NR^2R^3, morpholino or 1-pyrrolyl, wherein R^1 is H or $(C_{1\text{-}4})$alkyl, and wherein R^2 and R^3 each independently is H or $(C_{1\text{-}4})$alkyl; wherein said substituents are sterically compatible; or

(ii) unsaturated or saturated 5- or 6-membered carbocycle substituted with phenyl or naphthyl, said unsaturated or saturated carbocycle, or the phenyl or naphthyl optionally substituted with the same 1 to 3 substituents as defined for the

substituents in section (i); or

(iii) benzimidazole optionally *N*-substituted with phenyl or a fused phenyl-carbocycle as defined above;

X is a heteroatom selected from O, S, SO, SO_2 or NR^4 wherein R^4 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or **X** is a valence bond or $CR^{4A}R^{4B}$ wherein R^{4A} and R^{4B} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

when **X** is a heteroatom, including NR^4 :

W is a divalent radical selected from:

(a) $(CR^5R^{5A})_{1-2}$-$C(Z^A)NR^6$ wherein R^5 and R^{5A} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, R^6 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, and Z^A is oxo or thioxo;

(b) **D**-$C(Z^B)$ wherein **D** is (C_{1-4})alkylene, (C_{1-4})alkylene-O or (C_{1-4})alkylene-NR^7 wherein R^7 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, and Z^B is oxo or thioxo;

(c) $CH_2C(Z^C)NR^{7A}$-(C_{1-4})alkylene wherein Z^C is oxo or thioxo and R^{7A} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

(d) (C_{1-4})alkylene-$NR^{7B}C(Z^D)NR^{7C}$ wherein R^{7B} and R^{7C} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, and Z^D is oxo or thioxo;

(e) (C_{1-4})alkylene optionally substituted with OH, or optionally disubstituted with OH when the (C_{1-4})alkylene contains 2 to 4 carbon atoms; (C_{2-4})alkenyl optionally substituted with halo; or

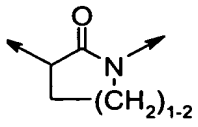
cis- or *trans*- $(CH_2)_{1-2}$  ; or

(f) {(C_{1-4})alkylene}-O optionally substituted on the alkylene portion with OH;

(g) {(C_{1-4})alkylene}-NR^8 optionally substituted on the alkylene portion with OH, and R^8 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

(h) (C_{1-4})alkylene-$C(Z^E)(C_{1-4})$alkylene wherein Z^E is oxo or thioxo; or

(i)

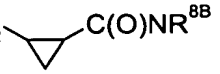


; or

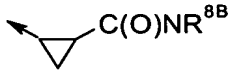
(j) $(CR^5R^{5A})_{1-2}$-NR^6-$(CR^5R^{5A})_{1-2}$ wherein R^5 and R^{5A} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, R^6 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

when **X** is a valence bond:

W is a {(C_{2-4})alkenyl}C(O)NR^{8A},

cis- or *trans*- $(CH_2)_{1-2}$  $C(O)NR^{8B}$

or

cis- or *trans*-  $C(O)NR^{8B}$

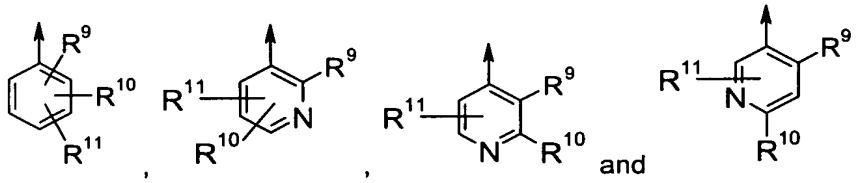
wherein R^{8A} and R^{8B} each is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

when **X** is $CR^{4A}R^{4B}$ as defined above:

W is selected from {(C_{1-4}) alkylene}C(O)NR^{8C}, S-{(C_{1-4})alkylene} C(O)NR^{8D}, O-{(C_{1-4})-alkylene}C(O)NR^{8E}, or NR^{8F}-{(C_{1-4})alkylene}-NR^{8G} wherein R^{8C}, R^{8D}, R^{8E}, R^{8F} and R^{8G} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

Ar^2 is

(i) a phenyl or pyridinyl selected from the formulas



wherein R^9, R^{10} and R^{11} each independently represents:

H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, S-(C_{1-6})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, -$NR^{N1}R^{N2}$, -C(O)R^{21}, -(C_{1-3})alkyl-C(O)R^{21}, -C(O)OR^{22}, -(C_{1-3})alkyl-C(O)OR^{22}, -SO_2-(C_{1-3})alkyl-C(O)OR^{22}, wherein R^{21} is (C_{1-4})alkyl; R^{22} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; $C(O)NH_2$, -(C_{1-3})alkyl-$C(O)NH_2$, S(O)-(C_{1-4})alkyl, SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, SO_2NH_2, phenyl, phenylmethyl, phenyl-SO_2-, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridinyl, 1-pyrrolyl, whereby said phenyl, pyridinyl and pyrrolyl may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, NO_2, C_{1-3}-alkyl and CF_3;

wherein the substituents R^9, R^{10} and R^{11} are sterically compatible;

wherein R^{N1}, R^{N2} each independently represent H or (C_{1-6})alkyl, whereby R^{N1}

and R^{N2} may be covalently bonded to each other to form together with the N-atom to which they are attached to a 4 to 7-membered heterocycle whereby the $-CH_2-$group at the position 4 of a 6 or 7-membered heterocycle may be replaced by -O-, -S- or $-NR^{N3}-$ wherein R^{N3} represents H, $-C(O)OR^{22}$, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, wherein R^{22} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

(ii) Ar^2 is a fused phenyl-(saturated or unsaturated 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected independently from (C_{1-4})alkyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, NO_2 or halo; or

(iii) Ar^2 is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from *N*, O or S, or a fused phenyl-5- or 6-membered heterocycle, said aromatic heterocycle or fused phenyl-heterocycle is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected independently from (C_{1-4})alkyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, NO_2 or halo; or

(iv) Ar^2 is phthalimido and W is (C_{1-4})alkylene;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A method according to claim 1,
wherein Ar^1 is

(i) 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O or S; said heterocycle optionally substituted with (C_{1-4})alkyl or phenyl when the heterocycle contains 1 to 3 N-atoms; in either instance, the said heterocycle is optionally substituted with:

phenyl, phenylmethyl, 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, fused phenyl-unsaturated or saturated 5- or 6-membered carbocycle, fused phenyl-{unsaturated or saturated 5- or 6- membered carbocycle)}methyl, or fused phenyl –5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle; each of said phenyl, carbocycle or heterocycle, in turn is substituted optionally with 1 to 3 substituents selected independently from:

(C_{1-4})alkyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OH, NO_2, CN,

phenyl optionally substituted with (C_{1-6})alkyl, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, $C(O)OR^1$ wherein R^1 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, or NR^2R^3 wherein R^2 and R^3 each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; wherein said substituents are sterically compatible; or

(ii) unsaturated or saturated 5- or 6-membered carbocycle substituted with phenyl or naphthyl, said unsaturated or saturated carbocycle, or the phenyl or naphthyl optionally substituted with the same 1 to 3 substituents as defined for the substituents in section (i); or

(iii) benzimidazole optionally *N*-substituted with phenyl or a fused phenyl-carbocycle as defined above;

X is a heteroatom selected from O, S or NR^4 wherein R^4 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or **X** is a valence bond or $CR^{4A}R^{4B}$ wherein R^{4A} and R^{4B} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

when **X** is a heteroatom:

W is a divalent radical selected from:

(a) $(CR^5R^{5A})_{1-2}$-$C(Z^A)NR^6$ wherein R^5 and R^{5A} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, R^6 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, and Z^A is oxo or thioxo;

(b) **D**-$C(Z^B)$ wherein **D** is (C_{1-4})alkylene, (C_{1-4})alkylene-O or (C_{1-4})alkylene-NR^7 wherein R^7 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, and Z^B is oxo or thioxo;

(c) $CH_2C(Z^C)NR^{7A}$-(C_{1-4})alkylene wherein Z^C is oxo or thioxo and R^{7A} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

(d) (C_{1-4})alkylene-$NR^{7B}C(Z^D)NR^{7C}$ wherein R^{7B} and R^{7C} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, and Z^D is oxo or thioxo;

(e) (C_{1-4})alkylene optionally substituted with OH, or optionally disubstituted with OH when the (C_{1-4})alkylene contains 2 to 4 carbon atoms; (C_{2-4})alkenyl optionally substituted with halo; or

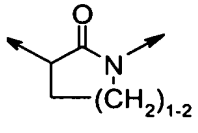
cis- or *trans*- $(CH_2)_{1-2}$  ; or

(f) {(C_{1-4})alkylene}-O optionally substituted on the alkylene portion with OH;

(g) {(C_{1-4})alkylene}-NR^8 optionally substituted on the alkylene portion with OH, and R^8 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

(h) (C_{1-4})alkylene-$C(Z^E)(C_{1-4})$alkylene wherein Z^E is oxo or thioxo; or

(i)



; or

when **X** is a valence bond:

W is a $\{(C_{2-4})$alkenyl$\}C(O)NR^{8A}$,

cis- or *trans*- $(CH_2)_{1-2}$  $C(O)NR^{8B}$

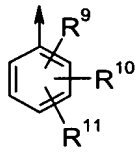
wherein $\mathbf{R^{8A}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{8B}}$ each is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

when **X** is $CR^{4A}R^{4B}$ as defined above:

W is selected from $\{(C_{1-4})$ alkylene$\}C(O)NR^{8C}$, S-$\{(C_{1-4})$alkylene$\}$ $C(O)NR^{8D}$, O-$\{(C_{1-4})$-alkylene$\}C(O)NR^{8E}$, or NR^{8F}-$\{(C_{1-4})$alkylene$\}$-NR^{8G} wherein $\mathbf{R^{8C}}$, $\mathbf{R^{8D}}$, $\mathbf{R^{8E}}$, $\mathbf{R^{8F}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{8G}}$ each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{Ar^2}$ is

(i) a phenyl of formula



wherein $\mathbf{R^9}$, $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ each independently represents:

H, (C_{1-4})alkyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OH, NO_2, phenyl, phenylmethyl, (2-nitrophenyl)methyl, 2-methylphenyl, -C(O)-$(C_{1-4}$-)alkyl, $C(O)NH_2$, S(O)-(C_{1-4})alkyl, SO_2NH_2, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridinyl, morphonlino or 1-pyrrolyl, or $-C(O)OR^{22}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{22}}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; wherein the substituents $\mathbf{R^9}$, $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ are sterically compatible; or

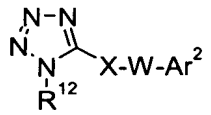
(ii) $\mathbf{Ar^2}$ is a fused phenyl-(saturated or unsaturated 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected independently from (C_{1-4})alkyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, NO_2 or halo; or

(iii) **Ar^2** is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from *N*, O or S, or a fused phenyl-5- or 6-membered heterocycle, said aromatic heterocycle or fused phenyl-heterocycle is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected independently from (C_{1-4})alkyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, NO_2 or halo; or

(iv) **Ar^2** is phthalimido and **W** is (C_{1-4})alkylene;

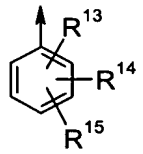
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A method according to claim 2 for treating HIV infections comprising administering to a human infected with HIV a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by formula **1a**:



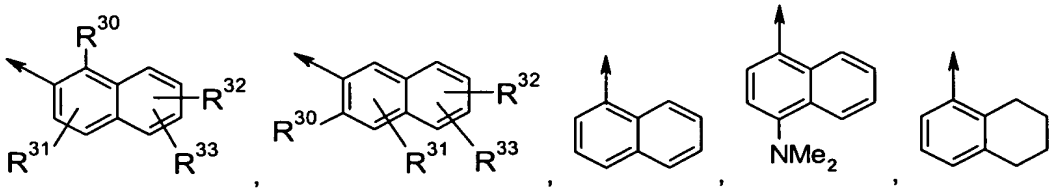
1a

wherein **X, W** and **Ar^2** are as defined in claim 2 and **R^{12}** is a phenyl of formula



wherein **R^{13}**, **R^{14}** and **R^{15}** each independently represents H, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, phenyl, 2-methylphenyl, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, $C(O)NH_2$, morpholino, 1-pyrrolyl, (2-nitrophenyl)-CH_2, phenylmethyl, $C(O)OR^{16}$ wherein **R^{16}** is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

wherein **R^{12}** is selected from the group consisting of



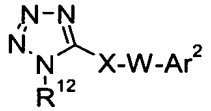
R^{31}, **R^{32}**,

R^{33} are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C_{1-6})alkyl,

(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, $C(O)OR^1$ wherein R^1 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, or NR^2R^3 wherein R^2 and R^3 each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

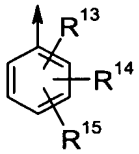
R^{30} represents H, Cl, Br, $COO(C_{1-4})$alkyl.

4. A method according to claim 2 wherein the compound is a compound of formula **1a**



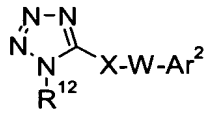
1a

wherein R^{12} is a phenyl of formula



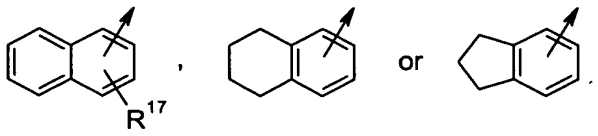
wherein R^{13}, R^{14} and R^{15} each independently represents H, Me, Et, Pr, iPr, tBu, OMe, OEt, OiPr, SMe, SEt, Br, Cl, F, CF_3, OCF_3, NO_2, C(O)OH, C(O)OMe or C(O)OEt, provided that at least one of R^{13}, R^{14} and R^{15} is other than hydrogen.

5. A method according to claim 2 wherein the compound is a compound of formula **1a**



1a

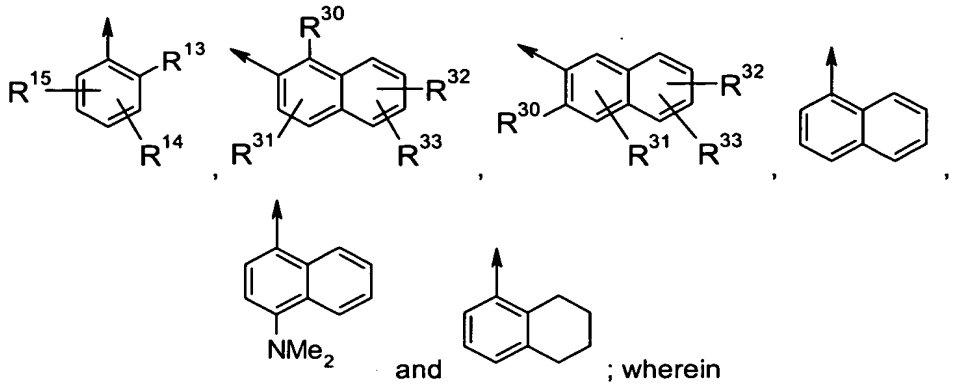
wherein R^{12} is



wherein R^{17} is selected from H, Me, OMe, Cl, F, CF_3, NH_2, NHMe or NMe_2.

6. A method according to claim 3 wherein the compound is a compound of

formula **1a** wherein R^{12} is selected from:



and ; wherein

R^{13} represents F, Cl, Br, CH_3, $COO(C_{1-4})$alkyl and

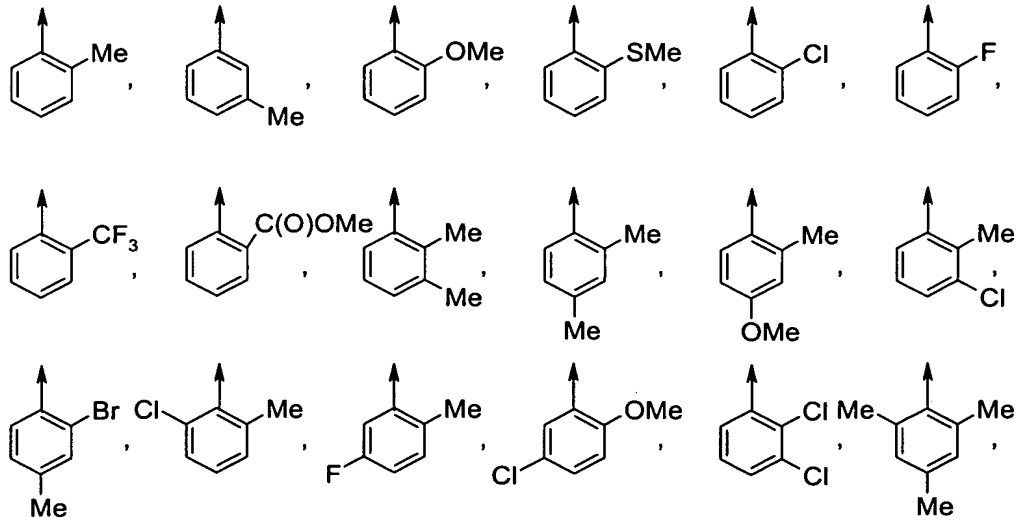
R^{14}, R^{15},

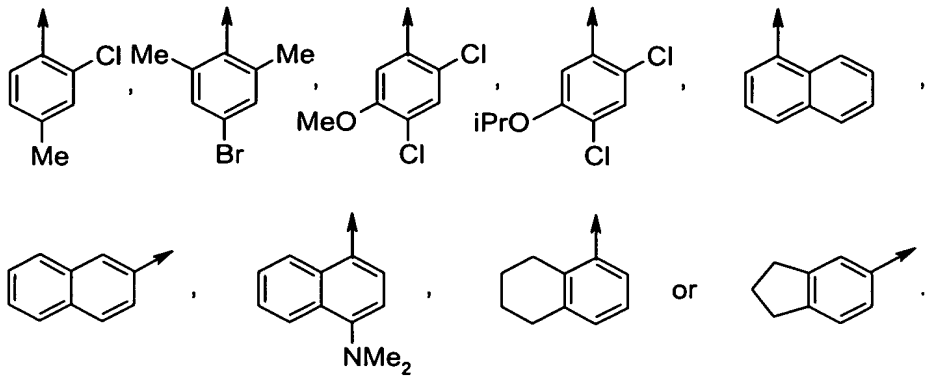
R^{31}, R^{32},

R^{33} are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, $C(O)OR^1$ wherein R^1 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, or NR^2R^3 wherein R^2 and R^3 each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

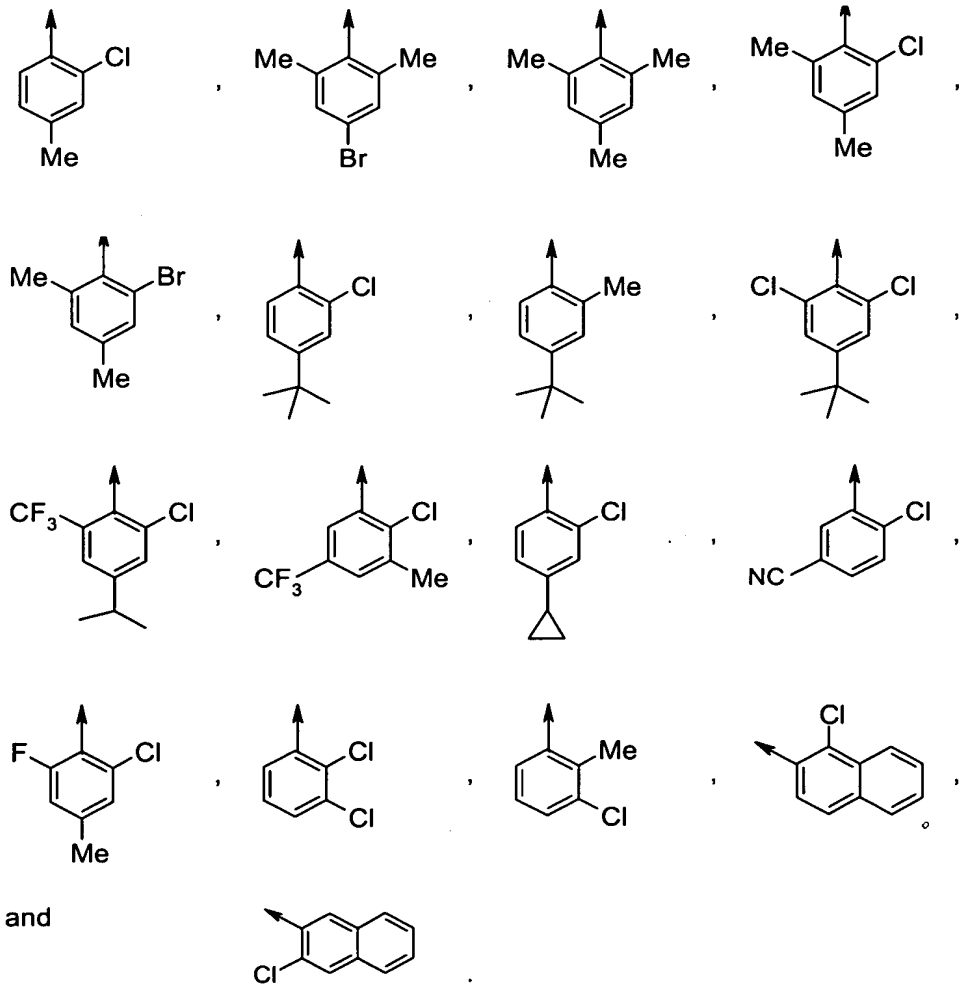
R^{30} represents H, Cl, Br, $COO(C_{1-4})$alkyl.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the compound is a compound of formula **1a** wherein R^{12} is selected from:





8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the compound is a compound of formula **1a** wherein R^{12} is selected from the group consisting of:



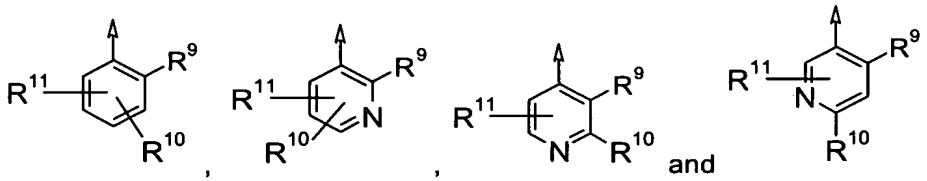
and

9. A method according to claim 1 wherein the compound is a compound of formula **1** wherein **X** is O or S.

10. A method according to claim 1 wherein the compound is a compound of formula **1** wherein **W** is a divalent radical selected from the group consisting of: -S-(CR^5R^{5A})-CO-NR^6, -O-(CR^5R^{5A})-CO-NR^6, -S-(C_{2-4})alkylene-O- and -S-(C_{2-4})alkylene-NR^6-, wherein R^5 and R^{5A} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, R^6 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and wherein the (C_{2-4})alkylene group is optionally substituted with OH.

11. A method according to claim 1 wherein the compound is a compound of formula **1** wherein **W** is CH(R^5)C(O)NH wherein R^5 is H or Me.

12. A method according to claim 1 wherein Ar^2 is selected from the group consisting of



wherein R^9 is (C_{1-3})alkyl, halo or NO_2,

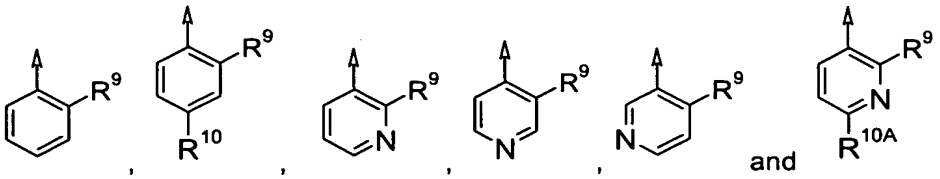
R^{10}, R^{11} are independently of each other selected from the group consisting of H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, O(C_{1-6})alkyl, S(C_{1-6})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, -$NR^{N1}R^{N2}$, -C(O)R^{21}, -(C_{1-3})alkyl-C(O)R^{21}, -C(O)OR^{22}, -(C_{1-3})alkyl-C(O)OR^{22}, -SO_2-(C_{1-3})alkyl-C(O)OR^{22}, -(C_{1-3})alkyl-C(O)NH_2, C(O)NH_2, -S(O)-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -SO_2-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -SO_2-phenyl, -SO_2-NH_2, phenyl, phenylmethyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridinyl, 1-pyrrolyl, whereby said phenyl, pyridinyl and pyrrolyl may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, NO_2, C_{1-3}-alkyl and CF_3;

wherein R^{21} is (C_{1-4})alkyl and R^{22} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

wherein R^{N1}, R^{N2} each independently represent H or (C_{1-6})alkyl, whereby R^{N1} and R^{N2} may be covalently bonded to each other to form together with the N-atom to which they are attached to a 4 to 7-membered heterocycle whereby the -CH_2-group at the position 4 of a 6 or 7-membered heterocycle may be replaced by -O-, -S- or -NR^{N3}- wherein R^{N3} represents H, -C(O)OR^{22}, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-

(C_{1-3})alkyl, wherein R^{22} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein Ar^2 is selected from the group consisting of



and

wherein R^9 is Cl or NO_2;

R^{10A} is C_{1-4}alkyl; and

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, $O(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $S(C_{1-6})$alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, $-NR^{N1}R^{N2}$, $-C(O)R^{21}$, $-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)R^{21}$, $-C(O)OR^{22}$, $-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)OR^{22}$, $-SO_2-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)OR^{22}$, $-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)NH_2$,$C(O)NH_2$, $-S(O)-(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-SO_2-(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-SO_2$-phenyl, $-SO_2-NH_2$, phenyl, phenylmethyl, phenyl-SO_2-, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridinyl, 1-pyrrolyl, whereby said phenyl, pyridinyl and pyrrolyl may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, NO_2, C_{1-3}-alkyl and CF_3;

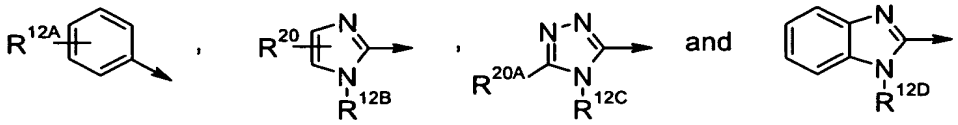
wherein R^{21} is (C_{1-4})alkyl; and R^{22} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

wherein R^{N1}, R^{N2} each independently represent H or (C_{1-6})alkyl, whereby R^{N1} and R^{N2} may be covalently bonded to each other to form together with the N-atom to which they are attached to a 4 to 7-membered heterocycle whereby the $-CH_2$-group at the position 4 of a 6 or 7-membered heterocycle may be replaced by -O-, -S- or $-NR^{N3}$- wherein R^{N3} represents H, $-C(O)OR^{22}$, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, wherein R^{22} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl.

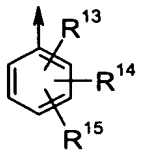
14. A method according to claim 1 for treating HIV infections comprising administering to a human infected with HIV, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound, represented by **1b**:

$$Ar^3\text{–}X\text{-}W\text{-}Ar^2 \qquad \textbf{1b}$$

wherein **X**, **W** and Ar^2 are as defined in claim 1 and Ar^3 is selected from the group consisting of:

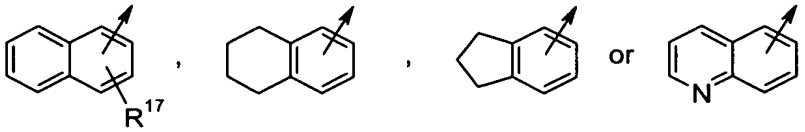


wherein R^{12A}, R^{12B}, R^{12C} and R^{12D} each is a phenyl of formula



wherein R^{13}, R^{14} and R^{15} each independently represents H, (C_{1-4})alkyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, Ph, 2-methylphenyl, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, $C(O)NH_2$, morpholino, 1-pyrrolyl, $(2\text{-}NO_2\text{-}Ph)CH_2$, $PhCH_2$, $C(O)OR^{16}$ wherein R^{16} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or

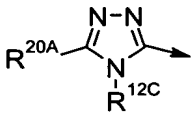
R^{12A}, R^{12B}, R^{12C} and R^{12D} each is



wherein R^{17} is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3 or $NR^{18}R^{19}$ wherein R^{18} and R^{19} each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

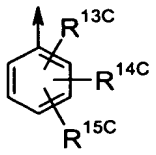
and R^{20} and R^{20A} each is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl.

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein the compound is a compound of formula **1b** wherein Ar^3 is



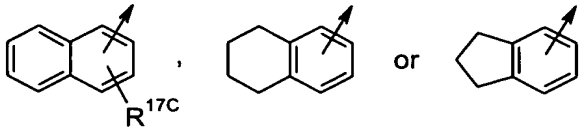
wherein R^{12C} is as defined in claim 14, and R^{20A} is H, Me, Et, Pr or iPr.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the compound is a compound of formula **1b** wherein R^{12C} is a phenyl of formula



wherein R^{13C}, R^{14C} and R^{15C} each independently is H, Me, Et, Pr, iPr, OMe, OEt,

SMe, SEt, Br, Cl, F, CF_3, NO_2, C(O)OH, C(O)OMe or C(O)OEt, provided that at least one of R^{13C}, R^{14C}, and R^{15C} is other that hydrogen, and R^{20A} is H, Me or Et; or R^{12C} is

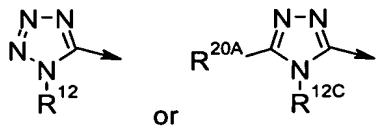


wherein R^{17C} is selected from H, Me, OMe, Cl, F, CF_3, NH_2, NHMe or NMe_2; and R^{20A} is H, Me or Et.

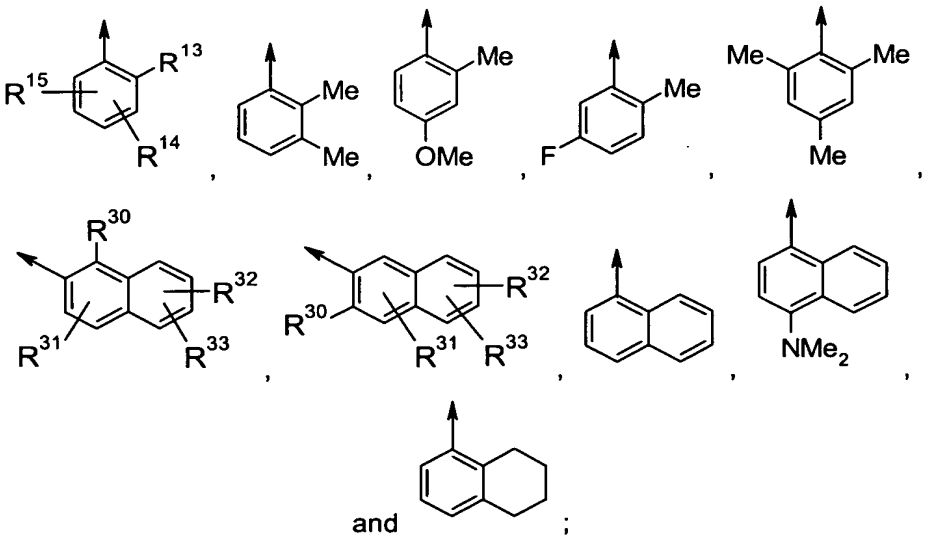
17. A compound of formula 1:

Ar^1-X-W-Ar^2 1

wherein Ar^1 is



wherein R^{12} is selected from the group consisting of



R^{13} represents Cl, Br, $COO(C_{1-4})$alkyl and
if R^9 is NO_2, Cl or Br, then R^{13} may also represent F or CH_3;

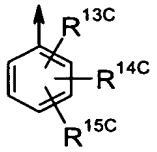
R^{14}, R^{15},

R^{31}, R^{32},

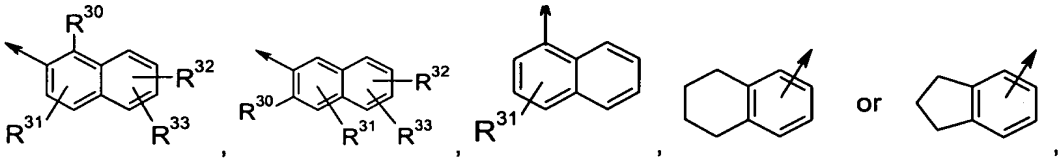
R^{33} are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, C(O)OR^1 wherein R^1 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, or NR^2R^3 wherein R^2 and R^3 each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

R^{30} represents H, Cl, Br, COO(C_{1-4})alkyl;

R^{12C} is a phenyl of formula



wherein R^{13C}, R^{14C} and R^{15C} each independently represents H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, C(O)OR^1 wherein R^1 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, or NR^2R^3 wherein R^2 and R^3 each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; provided that at least one of R^{13C}, R^{14C} and R^{15C} is other than hydrogen; or R^{12C} is



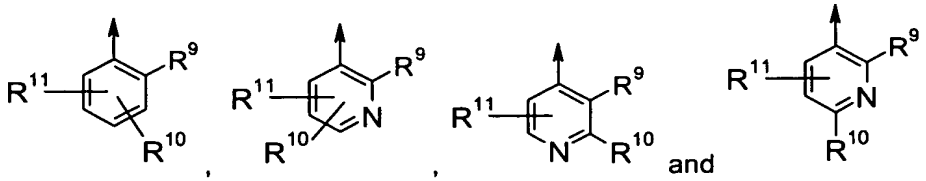
wherein R^{30}, R^{31}, R^{32}, R^{33} are as defined hereinbefore; and

R^{20A} is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl-, wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkylalkyl may be monosubstituted with -OH; and

X is S or O;

W is $CH_2C(O)NR^6$ wherein R^6 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

Ar^2 is selected from the group consisting of



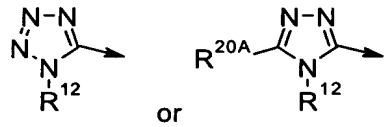
wherein $\mathbf{R^9}$ is halo or NO_2; and if $\mathbf{R^{13}}$ is Cl or Br, then $\mathbf{R^9}$ may also represent (C_{1-3})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{10}}$, $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ are independently of each other selected from the group consisting of H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})Cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})Cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, $O(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $S(C_{1-6})$alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, $-N\mathbf{R^{N1}R^{N2}}$, $-C(O)\mathbf{R^{21}}$, $-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)\mathbf{R^{21}}$, $-C(O)O\mathbf{R^{22}}$, $-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)O\mathbf{R^{22}}$, $-SO_2-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)O\mathbf{R^{22}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{21}}$ is (C_{1-4})alkyl and $\mathbf{R^{22}}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;

$-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)NH_2$,$C(O)NH_2$, $S(O)-(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-SO_2-(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-SO_2$-phenyl, $-SO_2-NH_2$, phenyl, phenylmethyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridinyl, 1-pyrrolyl, whereby said phenyl, pyridinyl and pyrrolyl may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, NO_2, C_{1-3}-alkyl and CF_3;

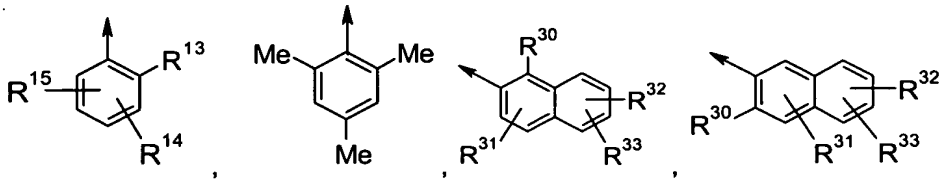
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. The compound of formula 1 according to claim 17 wherein $\mathbf{Ar^1}$ is



; and

wherein $\mathbf{R^{12}}$ is selected from the group consisting of



wherein $\mathbf{R^{13}}$, $\mathbf{R^{14}}$, $\mathbf{R^{15}}$, $\mathbf{R^{20A}}$, $\mathbf{R^{30}}$, $\mathbf{R^{31}}$, $\mathbf{R^{32}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{33}}$ are as defined in claim 17.

19. The compound of formula 1 according to claim 18 wherein

$\mathbf{R^{13}}$ represents Cl or Br and

if R^9 is NO_2, Cl or Br, then R^{13} may also represent F or CH_3;

$\mathbf{R^{14}}$, $\mathbf{R^{15}}$,

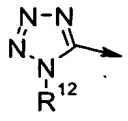
R^{31}, R^{32},

R^{33} are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, SO_2NH_2, SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, $C(O)OR^1$ wherein R^1 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, or NR^2R^3 wherein R^2 and R^3 each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

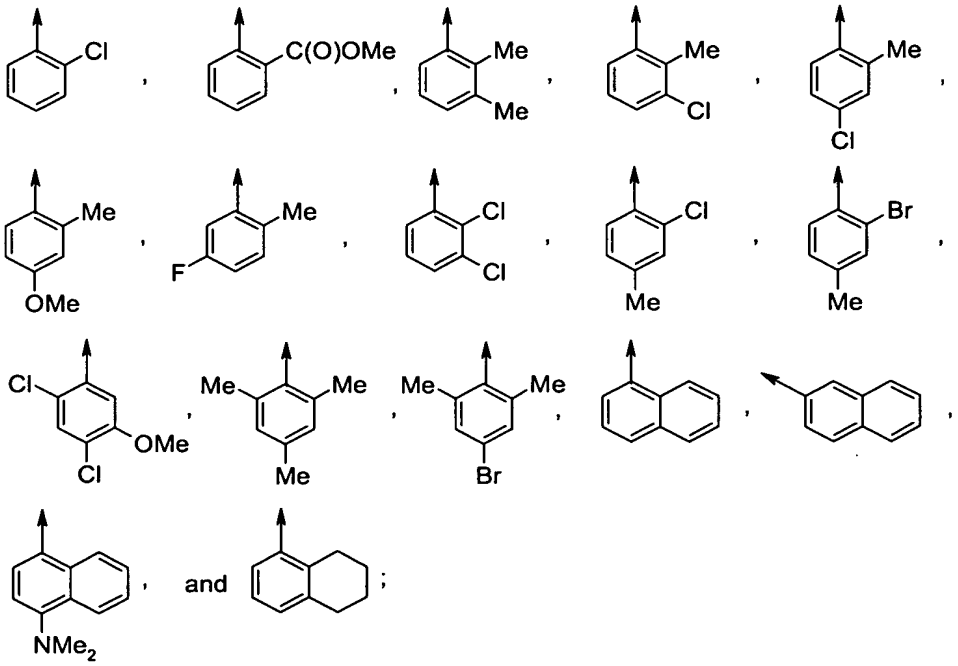
R^{30} represents Cl or Br.

20. The compound of formula 1 according to claim 19 wherein **W** is $CH_2C(O)NH$.

21. A compound according to claim 17 wherein

Ar^1 is defined as  and

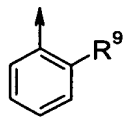
wherein R^{12} is selected from the group consisting of



X is S;

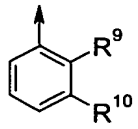
W is $CH_2C(O)NR^6$ wherein R^6 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

Ar^2 is



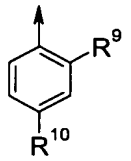
wherein $\mathbf{R^9}$ is halo or NO_2; or

$\mathbf{Ar^2}$ is



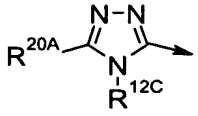
wherein $\mathbf{R^9}$ is halo or NO_2 and $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ is halo; or

$\mathbf{Ar^2}$ is

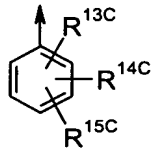


wherein $\mathbf{R^9}$ is halo or NO_2, and $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ is OMe, halo, OH, NO_2, phenyl, C(O)OH or C(O)OMe.

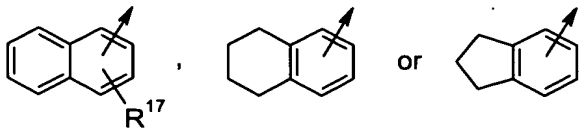
22. A compound according to claim 17

wherein $\mathbf{Ar^1}$ is  and

wherein $\mathbf{R^{12C}}$ is a phenyl of formula

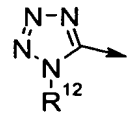


wherein $\mathbf{R^{13C}}$, $\mathbf{R^{14C}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{15C}}$ each independently represents H, Me, Et, Pr, iPr, tBu, OMe, OEt, SMe, SEt, Br, Cl, F, CF_3, NO_2, C(O)OH, C(O)OMe or C(O)OEt, provided that at least one of $\mathbf{R^{13C}}$, $\mathbf{R^{14C}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{15C}}$ is other than hydrogen; or $\mathbf{R^{12C}}$ is

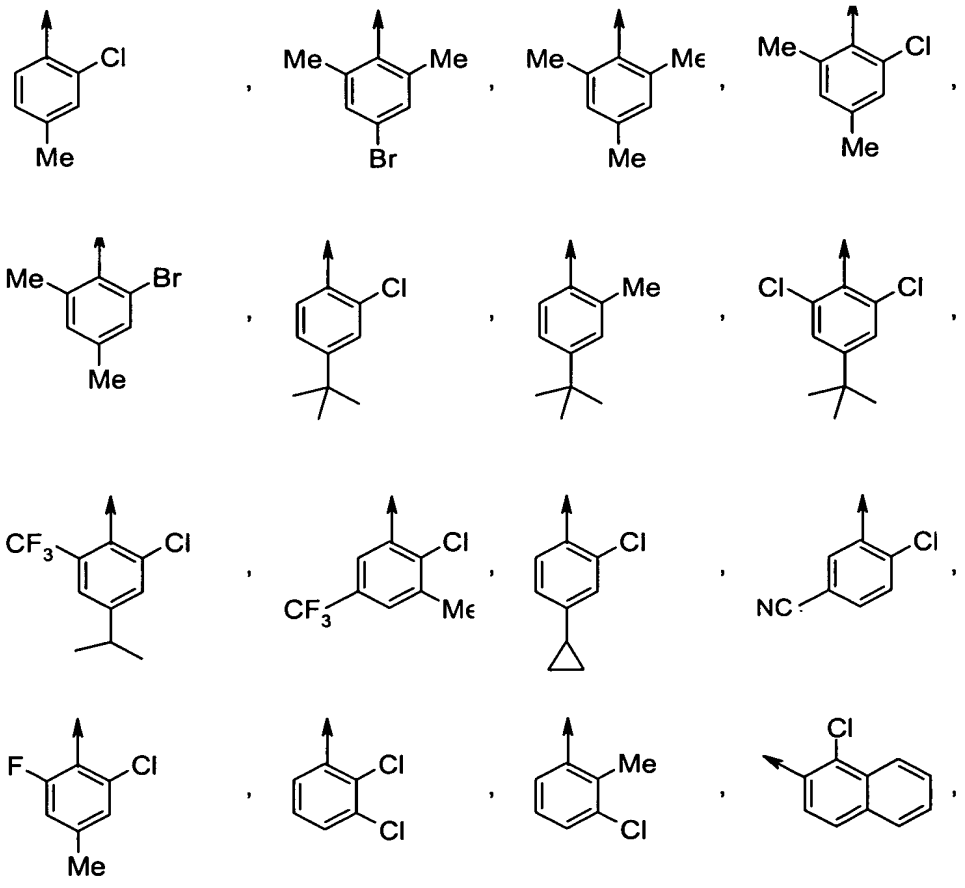


wherein R^{17} is selected from H, Me, OMe, Cl, F, CF_3, NH_2, NHMe or NMe_2; and R^{20A} is H, Me, Et, Pr or iPr.

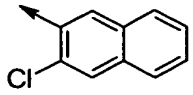
23. A compound of formula **1**, according to claim 17, wherein Ar^1 is:



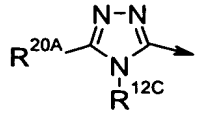
and wherein R^{12} selected from the group consisting of:



and

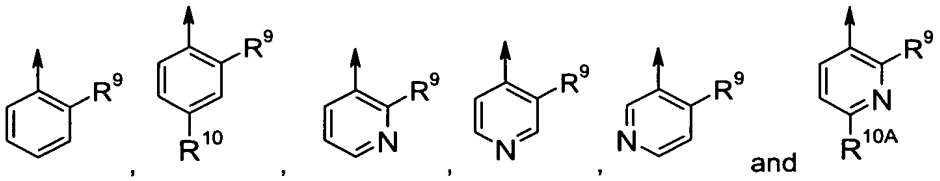


24. A compound according to claim 23, wherein **Ar**^{1} is:



wherein R^{12C} is defined as R^{12} in claim 23 and R^{20A} is methyl.

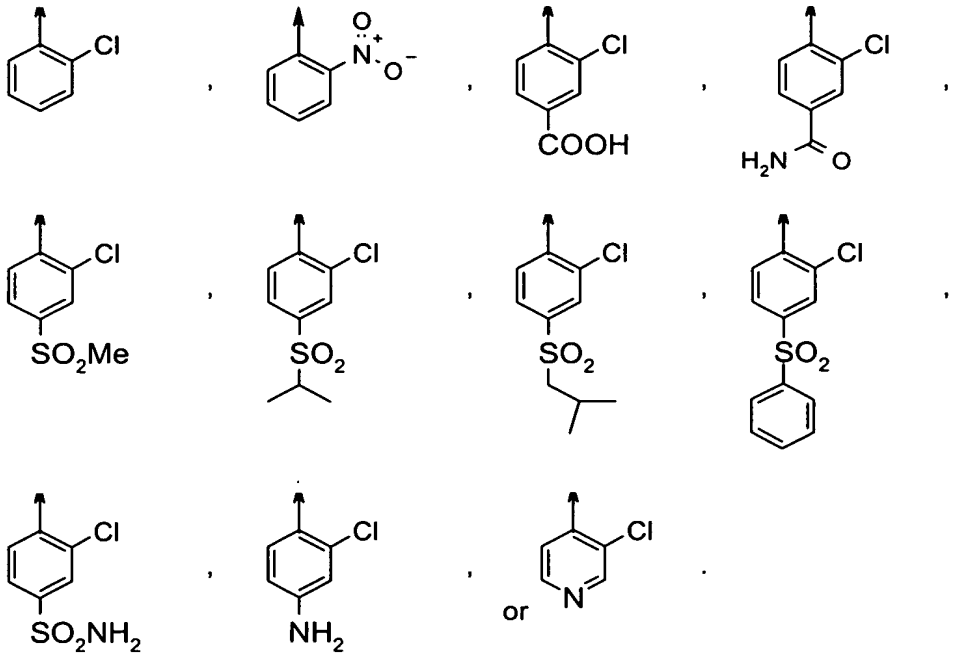
25. A compound of formula **1**, according to claim 17, wherein
Ar^{2} is selected from the group consisting of



wherein **R**^{9} is Cl or NO_2 and
R^{10A} is C_{1-4}alkyl;
R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, $O(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $S(C_{1-6})$alkyl, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, OH, NO_2, CN, $-NR^{N1}R^{N2}$, $-C(O)R^{21}$, $-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)R^{21}$, $-C(O)OR^{22}$, $-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)OR^{22}$, $-SO_2-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)OR^{22}$, $-(C_{1-3})$alkyl-$C(O)NH_2$,$C(O)NH_2$, $-S(O)-(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-SO_2-(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-SO_2$-phenyl, $-SO_2-NH_2$, phenyl, phenylmethyl, phenyl-SO_2-, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridinyl, 1-pyrrolyl, whereby said phenyl, pyridinyl and pyrrolyl may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, NO_2, C_{1-3}-alkyl and CF_3;
wherein **R**^{21} is (C_{1-4})alkyl and **R**^{22} is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;
wherein **R**^{N1}, **R**^{N2} each independently represent H or (C_{1-6})alkyl, whereby **R**^{N1} and **R**^{N2} may be covalently bonded to each other to form together with the N-atom to which they are attached to a 4 to 7-membered heterocycle whereby the $-CH_2$-group at the position 4 of a 6 or 7-membered heterocycle may be replaced by -O-, -S- or $-NR^{N3}$- wherein **R**^{N3} represents H, $-C(O)OR^{22}$, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl, wherein **R**^{22} is H or

(C_{1-4})alkyl.

26. A compound of formula **1**, according to claim 25, wherein Ar^2 is:



27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula **1** as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and optionally one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

28. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula **1** as defined in claim 17, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and optionally one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

29. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of HIV infection, comprising a compound of formula **1** as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of HIV infection, comprising a compound of formula **1** as defined in claim 17, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. A process for preparing a compound of formula **1** wherein $\mathbf{Ar^1}$ and $\mathbf{Ar^2}$ are as defined in claim 1, **X** is S or O and **W** is $(CR^5R^{5A})_{1-2}$ C(O)NR^6, wherein $\mathbf{R^5}$, $\mathbf{R^{5A}}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ each independently is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, comprising:

a) reacting a thiol or alcohol of formula $\mathbf{Ar^1}$-**X**-H with an ω-halo alkanoic alkyl ester of formula **Y**-$(CR^5R^{5A})_{1-2}$C(O)OR^A wherein **Y** is halo and $\mathbf{R^A}$ is (C_{1-4})alkyl, in the presence of a base, to obtain the corresponding ester of formula $\mathbf{Ar^1}$-**X**- $(CR^5R^5)_{1-2}$C(O)OR^A, followed by hydrolysis of the ester to the corresponding acid wherein $\mathbf{R^A}$=H, and coupling the latter acid with an aromatic amine of general formula HNR^6-$\mathbf{Ar^2}$ in the presence of a coupling agent to obtain the corresponding compound of formula **1** wherein $\mathbf{Ar^1}$, $\mathbf{Ar^2}$, **X** and **W** are as defined in this claim; or

b) reacting a thiol or alcohol of formula $\mathbf{Ar^1}$-**X**-H wherein $\mathbf{Ar^1}$ and **X** are as defined in this claim with an anilide of formula **Y**-$(CR^5R^{5A})_{1-2}$C(O)NR^6-$\mathbf{Ar^2}$ wherein **Y**, $\mathbf{R^5}$, $\mathbf{R^{5A}}$, $\mathbf{R^6}$ and $\mathbf{Ar^1}$ are as defined in this claim, in the presence of a base to obtain the corresponding compound of formula **1**.